

Grenfell Fire Response News

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Tower structure not a risk to public safety

The Grenfell Response team will be writing to people living near Grenfell Tower to provide reassurance around the stability of the tower structure and public safety.

Despite the intense heat of the fire, the structural concrete frame of Grenfell Tower is stable and there is no risk to public safety. This has been confirmed by a range of experts, including structural engineers.

You will continue to see lots of activity on site over the coming months as the police recovery operation and investigation inside the Tower continue.

The area surrounding the tower continues to be cordoned off. This is both to keep the area safe and to ensure the police investigation can continue without interruption.

The safety of the building is enforced by a sophisticated system of on-site alarms which can detect the tiniest movements caused by gusts of wind, temperature changes or shifts in the building as heavy material is removed. This will not lead to alarms sounding and there is no risk or issue for people living nearby.

The timetable for work includes three phases:

1. Shoring up the building structure with steel supports.
2. Erecting scaffolding to allow debris, possessions and other material to be removed.
3. Putting up a cover in stages as successive floors are cleared.

This work will proceed over coming weeks with a view to the building being covered by November.

No long term decision on the building will be taken until survivors, their relatives and local people have been consulted. We realise the sensitivity and strong emotion that activity around the building can provoke, so all work will be carried out with residents' concerns at the centre of our considerations.

Legal aid for residents

Legal aid is available to help people made homeless by the Grenfell Tower fire, and funding is also available to families to support them as they prepare for inquests. We encourage any family affected by the tragedy to apply for funding, which is granted by the independent Legal Aid Agency.

You can find out more about legal aid at www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid

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What is this newsletter for?

This is the twentieth edition of the Grenfell Fire Response Team newsletter. We want to keep you up to date with all the latest information and services available to help.

The newsletter is also available in Arabic and Farsi languages. For up to the minute info please follow us on Twitter **@grenfellsupport** and on Facebook at **facebook.com/grenfellsupport** or visit **www.gov.uk**

Public meeting at Notting Hill Methodist Church this evening

The next community public meeting will take place this evening, Tuesday 18 July, from 6pm to 7.30pm at Notting Hill Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, W11 4AH. Please note that this meeting is taking place tonight, Tuesday, not Wednesday night, as was the case with the meetings that have previously taken place at the Al Manaar, Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre and St Clement's Church.

The session will aim to provide:

- an update from Response team representatives
- a face-to-face question and answer session
- guidance on information and support available.

Meetings are open to the public, so please do come along or invite people from the Lancaster West estate who you think would like to attend. If you are unable to make this meeting, upcoming newsletters will provide updates on the timing and location of future meetings.

If you have suggestions of any issues you would like to see addressed in future meetings, please contact communityengagement@grenfellresponse.org

Grenfell air quality figures available online

Monitoring from Public Health England (PHE) shows that the risk to people's health from air pollution around the site continues to be low and no asbestos has been detected.

Following discussions with local residents, PHE has published a report containing the air quality data from around the site. The report contains data tables, graphs and photographs of where the equipment is based, alongside an explanation of the data. The report will be updated on a regular basis. You can read the report online at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire

Water quality

Drinking water quality has not been impacted by the fire and tap water is safe to drink and use as normal.

Waste materials and debris

If you have waste material or debris from the fire at your property, please contact the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council on **020 7361 3001** to make arrangements for them to collect it. More advice from Public Health England can be found online at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire

What help is on offer?

Any family and friends concerned about their loved ones are asked to contact the Metropolitan Police on **0800 032 4539**.

Other important contacts

Bereavement support: Call the Freephone helpline on **0808 808 1677** or email helpline@cruse.org.uk. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Replacement UK passports, visas or immigration queries
Call our advice line on **0300 222 0000**. The line is open 24 hours.

Air quality and smoke exposure:
If you have concerns about any symptoms, please see your doctor or call NHS **111**.

NHS Mental health support:
Call **0800 0234 650** or email cnw-tr.spa@nhs.net for mental health support. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Victim support: Call **0808 1689 111** for practical and emotional support, or visit victimsupport.org.uk. The line is open 24 hours a day.

You can also get physical and mental support at the Assistance Centre, Westway Sports & Fitness Centre, Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP, open from 10am to 8pm. Find out more by calling **07712 231 133**.

You can also call the Red Cross helpline on **0800 458 9472**. The line is open from 8am to 8pm.

For regular updates please follow us on Twitter at [@grenfellsupport](https://twitter.com/grenfellsupport) and on Facebook at facebook.com/grenfellsupport, or visit www.gov.uk

Housing update

Finding housing solutions that work for everyone directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire remains our absolute priority and we are working hard to achieve this.

Offers of temporary accommodation are being made on a daily basis, but we know that families will have concerns around this process and the idea of accepting a temporary home. So far, 169 offers of accommodation have been made, 30 offers have been accepted and nine households rehoused.

For some people, it's still too soon to make such a major decision. For others, there are all sorts of considerations to take into account, such as the needs of elderly relatives, proximity to schools, and dealing with historical overcrowding. Choosing a temporary home for families that have undergone unimaginable loss and trauma is a big decision, and we are at pains to ensure they have the time to select a home that is right for them at a time that is right for them.

Government has given commitments to help reassure families that:

- their needs are paramount, all other considerations are secondary to these
- their rent will not increase and the same terms and conditions of their previous home at Grenfell Tower or Grenfell Walk will be maintained
- they will have lifetime security of tenure
- they will not be forced to stay in temporary accommodation on a long-term basis
- accepting an offer of temporary accommodation does not mean that they lose priority for a permanent home
- no one has to accept a particular property and not accepting a property does not mean that they will be made intentionally homeless
- temporary homes will be rent and utility bill free for 12 months
- for some cases, if they like their temporary home, there is the potential for it to become their permanent home (this will be discussed when the home is offered to them).

More information is available on the housing line on **020 7361 3008**.

Consultation deadline for Grenfell Inquiry extended

It has been confirmed that the consultation period for the Inquiry's terms of reference has been extended.

Following discussions with a range of interested parties, in particular survivors of the fire and other residents of the Lancaster West estate, it has become clear that there is a need for more time to respond to the Inquiry's consultation on its terms of reference.

As a result, the consultation period has been extended by two weeks until 28 July. This will provide additional time for people to respond and ensure the Inquiry's work, which cannot begin without terms of reference, can progress quickly.

Details of meetings open to survivors and local residents, to discuss the terms of reference, will be announced shortly.

Arrangements for collecting your post

Mail for Grenfell Tower can be collected from Royal Mail's West London Delivery Office, Unit 20–23, West London Delivery Office, Premier Park Road, NW10 7NZ (open Mon to Fri 8am to 2pm and Sat 8am to 1pm). Mail collection is also available by prior arrangement on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the Royal Mail desk at the Westway Sports Centre.

Please call **01752 387055** to make a mail collection arrangement. ID is required to collect your mail.

A free, one year Redirection service is also available to those affected. For more information about the Redirection and for any other enquiries, please call Royal Mail on **01752 387055**.

Parent and family support trauma sessions

A special programme of therapeutic group counselling delivered by experts in trauma care will be provided to parents and families who have been affected by the Grenfell Tower Fire from September.

These counselling sessions will be jointly delivered by experts in trauma care, and by Full of Life, a support group for children and young adults with disabilities and their families.

The sessions will take place at the Full of Life centre in Kensal House, 379 Ladbroke Grove, on the following dates:

- **19 September** 11.30am
- **4 October** 11.30am
- **8 November** 11.30am
- **22 November** 11.30am
- **6 December** 11.30am

Frequently asked questions

Will victims have to pay for outstanding utility bills?

The Government and utility companies have announced a package of support for Grenfell victims across energy, water and telecommunications. This includes suppliers agreeing to write off outstanding utility bills for victims of the fire, and the support comes on top of the £5 million fund to pay for emergency supplies, food, clothes and other costs. Further details can be found online at goo.gl/yhcniU

Will my eligibility for benefits be affected if I receive the £5,500?

The Department for Work and Pensions have said that your income-related benefits won't be affected by payments from the fund. Other benefits, such as Personal Independence Payments, won't be affected either and any payments from the emergency fund will not be taxed.

Newsletter available in Arabic and Farsi

This newsletter is available in Arabic and Farsi. Pick up your copy at the Westway assistance centre or online at grenfellresponse.org.uk/newsletter-archive

Online updates

For up to the minute info please follow us on Twitter **@grenfellsupport** and on Facebook at **facebook.com/grenfellsupport** or visit www.gov.uk

NHS update

In response to the needs of patients, NHS partners in West London have set up a multi-disciplinary health outreach team to support patients, families and neighbours affected by the tragedy.

The team is currently located at the Westway Assistance Centre, and is able to provide emotional support and physical checks. The health team is also able to signpost to GP services and more specialist mental health services.

The health outreach team is able to visit you at your place of residence or at another location of your choosing, such as a local community centre.

Non-urgent referrals can be made to the outreach team by calling **07712 231 133**. This is a direct line to the team at the Westway Assistance Centre, who will organise a non-urgent visit. The team can visit the patient on the day of the referral or the following day. Alternatively, referrals can be emailed to cnw-tr.westway@nhs.net

The first port of call for physical, emotional or mental health needs for any resident should be your own GP. Your GP will provide the all-important continuity of care, and is able to signpost to more specialist services.

Local GP practices are well placed to support people with emotional and mental health needs with an enhanced service in place.

If you do not have a GP, you can register for one online at www.nhs.uk by entering your postcode. If you do not have access to the internet, please call **020 8962 4600** and a member of the team will help you. The line is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Through the NHS **111** service, GP appointments are also available if needed at the St Charles Centre for Health and Wellbeing Integrated Care Centre, Exmoor Street, London W10 6DZ. Those requiring an urgent mental health response should call **0800 0234 650**.

Health visitors are also contacting all displaced families with young children.

Home Office scheme to support Grenfell Tower residents

If you are here illegally, do not have an outstanding asylum claim or your stay in the UK is about to end, the Home Office has launched a scheme to allow you to stay in the UK for up to 12 months.

We will make sure that you will be able to access the services you need, including accommodation and healthcare, and won't use this tragedy as a reason to carry out immigration checks. To access the scheme, you do not need to submit an application but you need to come and talk to us in person.

You will need to bring any evidence you have to show you lived at Grenfell Tower on the date of the

fire or close to it. If you have lost your evidence in the fire, we can still help you.

You can speak face-to-face about the new scheme to our specialist Home Office team at the Westway Sports and Fitness Centre, Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP from 10am to 8pm.

You are welcome to bring someone with you to help and translators are available if needed. To learn more about the scheme, call our helpline on **0300 222 0000** to arrange for a call back by our specialist visa and passport teams. The line is open 24 hours a day.